

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1                   1.       (Currently amended) A device control device for controlling equipment,  
2 comprising:  
3                   ~~input information recognition and identification means (6, 61, S11) which~~  
4 ~~identifies input information;~~  
5                   speech signal recognition and identification means which recognizes input speech  
6 signal, specifies a candidate for a phrase contained in the speech signal, and computes a  
7 likelihood of each specified phrase;  
8                   process-item data storing means [(D4)] which stores a plurality of process items  
9 indicated by the candidate for the phrase specified by said speech signal recognition means~~for~~  
10 ~~executing processes corresponding to recognized input information recognized and identified by~~  
11 ~~the input information recognition and identification means;~~  
12                   transition-definition data storing means (D5) which stores plural pieces of  
13 transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process  
14 items to another process item, in such a way that a process item indicated by the candidate for  
15 the phrase is associated with a constant; [(and)]  
16                   device control means which determines a process item to be executed subsequent  
17 to a currently executed item based on the candidate for the phrase, the likelihood of the specified  
18 phase computed by said speech signal recognition and identification means, and the constant  
19 indicated by the transition-definition data, the device control means controlling said equipment  
20 in accordance with the determined process item; and  
21                   acquisition means (6, 61, 64) which, when the process item for controlling said  
22 equipment, the process item being determined by said device controlling means, and/or the  
23 transition-definition data is not stored in said process item data storage means and/or said

transition-data storage means, accesses an externally located source ~~[[ (100) ]]~~ of a new process item and/or transition definition data, acquires said new process item and/or transition definition data, and updates an old process item stored in said process-item data storing means or old transition definition data stored in said transition-definition data storing means to said new process item or transition definition data, ~~wherein,~~

~~each of said transition definition data includes a condition corresponding to input information, and~~

~~a piece of transition definition data is selected from at least said recognized information and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, based on comparison between said input information input and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, and a status is transitioned to a process item designated by said selected transition definition data.~~

2. (Original) The device control device according to claim 1, wherein said source compresses and supplies said new process item or said transition definition data, and said acquisition means has means which decompresses said new process item or said transition definition data acquired from said source.

3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A device control method for controlling equipment, comprising:

a speech signal recognition and identification step of which recognizing input speech signal, specifying a candidate for a phrase contained in the speech signal, and computing a likelihood of each specified phrase;

a process-item data storing step of storing, in a first memory, a plurality of process items indicated by the candidate specified in said speech signal recognition and identification step ~~for executing processes corresponding to input information recognized and identified at an input information recognition and identification step;~~

10 a transition-definition data storing step of storing, in a second memory, plural  
11 pieces of transition definition data each having a condition corresponding to input information,  
12 and defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process items to another process  
13 item, in such a way that a process item specified by the candidate for the phrase is associated  
14 with a constant;

15 device control step of:  
16 determining a process item to be executed subsequent to a currently  
17 executed item based on the candidate for the phrase, the likelihood of the specified phase  
18 computed by said speech signal recognition and identification means, and the constant  
19 indicated by the transition-definition data; and

20 controlling said equipment in accordance with the determined process  
21 item; and

22 an acquisition and update step of, when the process item for controlling said  
23 equipment, the process item being determined by said device controlling means, and/or the  
24 transition-definition data is not stored in said first memory and/or said second memory, accessing  
25 an externally located source of a new process item or transition definition data, acquiring said  
26 new process item or transition definition data, and updating an old process item stored at said  
27 process-item data storing step or old transition definition data stored at said transition-definition  
28 data storing step to said new process item or transition definition data~~[[;]].~~

29 ~~said input information recognition and identification step of recognizing and~~  
30 ~~identifying input information to be input; and~~

31 ~~a step of selecting a piece of transition definition data from at least said~~  
32 ~~recognized information and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, based on~~  
33 ~~comparison between said input information input and the conditions of the individual transition~~  
34 ~~definition data, and transitioning a status to a process item designated by said selected transition~~  
35 ~~definition data.~~

1                   8.       (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium having  
2 recorded thereon a computer program that allows a computer to function as:  
3                   ~~input information recognition and identification means (6, 61, 811) which~~  
4 ~~identifies input information;~~  
5                   speech signal recognition and identification means which recognizes input speech  
6 signal, specifies a candidate for a phrase contained in the speech signal, and computes a  
7 likelihood of each specified phrase;  
8                   process-item data storing means [(D4)] which stores a plurality of process items  
9 specified by the candidate for the phrase specified by said speech signal recognition means for  
10 ~~executing processes corresponding to recognized input information recognized and identified by~~  
11 ~~the input information recognition and identification means;~~  
12                   transition-definition data storing means [(D5)] which stores plural pieces of  
13 transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process  
14 items to another process item, in such a way that a process item indicated by the candidate for  
15 the phrase is associated with a constant; [(and)]  
16                   device control means which determines a process item to be executed subsequent  
17 to a currently executed item based on the candidate for the phrase, the likelihood of the specified  
18 phase computed by said speech signal recognition and identification means, and the constant  
19 indicated by the transition-definition data, the device control means controlling said equipment  
20 in accordance with the determined process item; and  
21                   ~~acquisition means (6, 61, 64) which, when the process item for controlling said~~  
22 ~~equipment, the process item being determined by said device controlling means, and/or the~~  
23 ~~transition-definition data is not stored in said process item data storage means and/or said~~  
24 ~~transition-data storage means, accesses an externally located source [(100)] of a new process~~  
25 ~~item and/or transition definition data, acquires said new process item and/or transition definition~~  
26 ~~data, and updates an old process item stored in said process-item data storing means or old~~  
27 ~~transition definition data stored in said transition-definition data storing means to said new~~  
28 ~~process item or transition definition data[(, and)].~~

~~that is structured in such a way that each of said transition definition data includes  
a condition corresponding to input information, a piece of transition definition data is selected  
from at least said recognized information and the conditions of the individual transition  
definition data, based on comparison between said input information input and the conditions of  
the individual transition definition data, and a status is transitioned to a process item designated  
by said selected transition definition data.~~

9. (New) The device control device according to claim 1, wherein said  
device controlling means: computes a value represented by a product of the constant associated  
with the transition from the currently executed item to each of other process items that includes  
the candidate for the phrase and the likelihood of the specified phrase computed by said speech  
signal recognition identification means; and determines, as a next process target, a process item  
indicated by the candidate for the phrase that corresponds to largest of the values computed.